



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 18, 2005

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Mills Act Program Applications Now Available
Owners of Historic Properties Eligible for Tax Reduction

RIVERSIDE, CA – During the month of June the City of Riverside Planning Department will accept applications for the newly adopted Mills Act Program. The Mills Act is state legislation that provides a reduction in local property taxes to owners of historic properties in exchange for their commitment to use the tax savings to actively participate in restoring, rehabilitating, repairing and preserving their properties. Applications will be accepted from June 1st through June 30th

To qualify for the program, a historic property must be a designated by the City as a landmark, structure of merit, a contributor to a historic district, or be listed in any county, state or federal register. The Mills Act is applicable to income producing properties as well as owner occupied single-family residences.

The City of Riverside will enter into seven Mills Act contracts per year – five residential and two commercial, or up to seven residential if no commercial applications are submitted. The seven contracts will be randomly selected from all applications received. Once accepted, applicants will be billed for a one-time contract initiation fee of \$300. All contracts are reviewed by the Cultural Heritage Board and referred to the City Council for approval.

Participants accepted as Mills Act recipients will enter into a minimum 10-year contract with the City. Contracts are automatically renewed each year and are transferred to new owners when the property is sold. The program requires property owners to submit annual reports on completed projects, along with copies of receipts and building permits where applicable. City staff will conduct annual property inspections to ensure that proposed work has been completed and meets all applicable City standards. Penalties may be imposed for breach of contract or failure to maintain the historic property.

Mills Act Program Applications are available in the Planning Department, City Hall, 3900 Main Street 3rd Floor or on the City's website at www.riversideca.us. A non-refundable \$25 application fee is required. For more information call Janet Hansen, City Historic Preservation Officer at (951) 826-5463.

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